

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: LUL 8589 (Pat Daily water line) **Proposed Implementation Date:** Summer 2008

Proponent: Windy Prairie Farms, Inc. C/o Pat Daily: Star RT 83, Box 5 Chester, Mt 59522

Type and Purpose of Action: The purpose of this proposal is to supply the above farm with a new, reliable, quality water source. The water source will come from a new water line located several miles east of the state tracts. A detailed map showing the project lay out is included within this assessment.

Location: T33N-R6E Sec 36 - Lease # 7825 **County:** Liberty
 T33N-R7E Sec 30 - Lease # 335
 Common Schools Trust

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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| 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. | DNRC, Surface owner
Windy Prairie Farms, Surface Lessee # 7825 and proponent
Fossen Brothers Farms, Surface Lessee # 335 |
| 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED: | None |
| 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: | Deny the request |

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N]	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)		
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]	Lease # 335 is made up of fairly deep clay loam textured soils. This tract is under small grain cultivation. The farming practice is chemical fallow rotation on 20 rod strips. The current crop for the 2008 season is winter wheat. Reclamation is not anticipated for this tract. Surface damages are anticipated however.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Lease # 7825 is made up of clay loam textured soils. The tract consists of an upper pediment dissected by shallow gentle breaks. This tract is in native sod dominated by native sedges, needle & thread grass, and western wheat grass. The excavation from the installation will need to be seeded and either rolled or harrowed. Seeding rate will be 7#/acre each of western wheat grass and green needle grass.

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| 5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] Ground water will not be impacted due to this proposal. |
| 6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] There will be no impact to the air shed as a result of this proposal. |
| 7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] The vegetative community has the most impact from this type of proposal. The disturbance is anticipated to be minimal however. The proposal calls for the installation of a 2 inch poly line ripped in place. The vegetative community will be seeded back to green needle grass and western wheat grass. Cumulative impacts are not anticipated. |
| 8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] There will not be any adverse impact to fish, wildlife, or birds resulting from this proposal. |
| 9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] There are no endangered or threatened species or habitat present on this site. |
| 10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present? | [N] During the field inspection there were no historic sites found. The lease records also indicated no cultural sites present within the proposed area. Lease #7825 was assessed for a small break and reviewed by the department archeologist at that time and found to have no significant features present. |
| 11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] There are no prominent topographic features within the proposed area. |
| 12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF | [N] Agriculture is basically the sole industry in |

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

LAND, WATER, and AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?

the area. There are no anticipated cumulative impacts to other activities in the area resulting from this proposal.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?

[N] None

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE

[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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| 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area? | [N] This project will not add to the health and safety of the area. |
| 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities? | [N] This project is not expected to alter area activities. |
| 16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] This project will create a contracting job for the installation of the line. |
| 17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] This project will create some tax revenue from material and installation costs, as well as license fees. |
| 18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] There will not be substantial traffic added to the area as a result of this project. |
| 19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect? | [N] None |
| 20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is | [Y] There are no wilderness areas accessed through this tract. |

there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?

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| 21. | DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] None |
| 22. | SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible? | [N] None |
| 23. | CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area? | [N] None |
| 24. | OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of this proposed action. Estimated return to the trust will be calculated from the footages for pipeline installation requirements through a Land Use License. |

EA Checklist Prepared By: Steve Dobson LUS Conrad Unit Date: 6-5-08
Name Title

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Approve the water pipeline project under LUL #8589.

26. SIGN4IFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Short-term and small-scale impacts to the native rangeland is expected along the pipeline route. The water pipeline will be ripped in, which will minimize surface. All disturbed areas will be recontoured and reseeded to native grass according to the specifications outlined within this EA. No known archaeological sites are located within the project area. The surface lessee on section 30 has been contacted and actual damages will be settled. The School Trust will receive a \$250.00 one time rental for a 10 year LUL . Overall, no negative environmental impacts are expected.

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

☐ EIS ☐ More Detailed EA ☒ No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By: Erik Eneboe Conrad Unit Manager - CLO
Name Title

Signature Date
June 13, 2008